

Story 1551 (1992 Tape 1)

Narrator: Mustafa Aytekin, 30

Location: Derinkuyu, kaza town
of Nevşehir Province

Date: 1992

Nasreddin Hoca's¹ Mind Read from a Distance

One day while Nasreddin Hoca was sitting by his wife talking, he suddenly longed to have a bowl of hot soup with mint in it. He said, "Ah-h-h. My wife, how nice it would be at this moment if we could have a bowl of hot soup with mint in it. It would be very pleasant to be able to drink something like that right now

Just at that moment someone knocked on their door. The person who was standing at the door was the daughter of one of their neighbors, and this girl was holding a soup bowl in her hands. When Nasreddin Hoca saw that bowl, he suddenly felt joyful. He thought, "Oh, my Allah, you heard my wish and you have sent this girl here with a bowl of hot soup for me"!

But it turned out that that was not the situation at all. The girl said, "My mother is sick, and she has a strong desire

¹A hoca is a preacher and the religious leader of a community. In pre-Republican times the hoca was also the community teacher. Separation of church and state in the Republic required that teachers be people of secular rather than of religious training. Nasreddin Hoca is Turkey's most popular comic folk character.

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for a bowl of hot soup with mint in it. Will you please put some soup of that kind in this bowl for her?"

When Nasreddin Hoca heard these words of the girl, he was disturbed. He said to himself, "If even my thoughts are sensed by my neighbors, then we shall not be able to live comfortably in this neighborhood!"